

§ 34.701

§ 34.701 Responsibility for administration—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

Treasury is responsible for awarding grants to the Gulf Coast States, which will use the amounts made available to award grants to nongovernmental entities and consortia in the Gulf Coast Region for the establishment of Centers of Excellence. Treasury will develop and apply policies and procedures consistent with this Act and Federal law and policies on grants. Each Gulf Coast State entity issuing grants must establish and implement a program to monitor compliance with its grant agreements.

§ 34.702 Allocation of funds—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

An equal share of funds will be available to each Gulf Coast State to carry out eligible activities. The duties of a Gulf Coast State will be carried out by the following entities:

- (a) In Alabama, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, or such administrative agent as it may designate.
- (b) In Florida, the Florida Institute of Oceanography.
- (c) In Louisiana, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana.
- (d) In Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.
- (e) In Texas, the Office of the Governor or an appointee of the Office of the Governor.

§ 34.703 Application procedure—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

Treasury will develop an application process for grants available to the Gulf Coast States under this subpart that is consistent with the Act and Federal law and policies on grants. At a minimum, the process will include the following:

- (a) Each Gulf Coast State must describe the competitive process that the state will use to select one or more Centers of Excellence. The competitive process must allow nongovernmental entities and consortia in the Gulf Coast Region, including public and private institutions of higher education, to compete. The process must give pri-

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ority to entities and consortia that demonstrate the ability to establish the broadest cross-section of participants in the grant with interest and expertise in science, technology, and monitoring in the discipline(s) on which the proposal is focused. The process must also guard against conflicts of interest.

- (b) Each Gulf Coast State must describe rules and policies for the grants it will issue to subrecipients to ensure compliance with the Act and Federal law and policies for grants. Each Gulf Coast State must demonstrate in its application that its rules and policies, including the competitive selection process, were published and available for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days, and that they were adopted after consideration of meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations. This requirement does not apply to state statutes and regulations that may apply to grants made by the state under this subpart.

- (c) Each application must state the amount of funding requested and the purposes for which the funds will be used.

§ 34.704 Use of funds and eligible activities—Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

- (a) A Gulf Coast State receiving funds under this subpart must establish a grant program that complies with the Act and Federal law and policies for grants.

- (b) Gulf Coast States may use funds available under this subpart to award competitive subawards for the establishment of Centers of Excellence that focus on science, technology, and monitoring in at least one of the following disciplines:

- (1) Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration, and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region.
- (2) Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region.